Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005299

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1- OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO DICK COMBS, WHOM WE WERE ALL DELIGHTED TO SEE MAKE O-3 DESPITE THE NEW GROUND RULES WHICH PUT HIM IN THE SECONDARY ZONE. AND TO SHAUN BYRNES AS WELL ON HIS METEORIC RISE TO O-6.

2. FOR BROWN: PURSUANT TO YOUR REQUEST, WE HAVE STAFFED OUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH COULD BE RAISED IN AN INFORMAL MANNER IN AN INTRODUCTORY CALL ON MOROKHOV, PROVIDED OF COURSE AMBASSADOR AGREES AND SUBJECT CAN BE INTRODUCED WITHOUT AWKWARDNESS. YOU SHOULD AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT YOUR INTEREST IS ANYTHING MORE THAN PERSONAL. OUR ADVICE TO YOU ON REPORTING STYLE APPLIES.

--A) WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PLANS AND INTENTIONS
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REGARDING USE OF PNE'S WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION?

--B) I WAS INTERESTED TO SEE SOME RECENT DISCUSSION IN THE SOVIET PRESS OF THE KAMA-PECHORA CANAL (LIT. GAZ., NOV. 17). CAN YOU BRING ME UP TO DATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS AND THINKING ABOUT THE PROJECT?

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--C) WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR BEGINNING THE FAMILIARIZATION PROCESS FOR THE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED UNDER THE TTBT PROTOCOL?

--D) DO YOU BELIEVE A CTB SHOULD BE THE NEXT TASK IN CONSTRAINING NUCLEAR TESTING?

--E) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE MAIN PROBLEMS TO BE WORKED OUT IN A CTB?

--F) CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON GROMYKO'S REFERENCE IN HIS UN SPEECH TO ON-SITE INSPECTION UNDER A CTB?

--G) BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE TTBT/PNET NEGOTIATIONS, WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR TESTING (E.G., LOCATION, SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS, WAYS TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS AND AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS, ETC.)?

3. FYI WATSON TELLS US THAT POLLACK DISCUSSED THE WATER SUPPLY PROBLEM WITH JOHNSON BY PHONE 10 DAYS-2WEEKS AGO. YOUR CABLE TURNED UP TODAY (NOT ON SATURDAY) IN OUR MAIL.

4. ALAN ROMBERG, A BRIGHT O-4 CHINA HAND WITH PROSPECTS OF MAKING O-3 THIS TIME AROUND HAD ONCE WANTED A MOSCOW ASSIGNMENT. HIS RUSSIAN IS TESTED AT 2-2. HE IS NOW AT THE NSC, BUT THIS MAY CHANGE NOW. ANY INTEREST IN EXPLORING THIS AS A SIMONS REPLACEMENT?

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5. YOUR 0294 WAS VERY INTERESTING. WE AGREE WITH THE QUALIFIERS YOU PUT ON BOVIN, BUT WONDER IF WE REALLY HAVE A GOOD RECENT FIX ON THE PRIVATE ATTITUDES OF OTHER COMMENTATORS AT THIS TIME. A SAMPLING OF PERSPECTIVES AMONG THEM WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PLACING HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT SPECTRUM. A FRESH FEEL FOR WHAT THESE PEOPLE WILL SAY IN PRIVATE MIGHT BE A VERY USEFUL COUNTERPOINT TO THE CLOSE ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO WHAT THEY ARE SAYING IN PRINT.

6. OUR PHONE CALL ON THE STATUS OF THE ALLIED PROTEST OVER RECENT GDR ACTIONS IN EAST BERLIN CAME AS A RESULT OF A HIGH LEVEL DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT AT THE NOON BRIEFING. (THE NOON BRIEFING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED.)

7. WE NEED TO GIVE AFSA FACTUAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ACCESS TO THEIR CABLES: DO YOU ROUTINELY SEE COPIES OF THEIR CABLES? IF NOT, CAN YOU SEE THEM IF YOU

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REQUEST THEM? YOU CAN ANSWER THIS CHANNEL, I WILL PASS

ORALLY TO JACK SCANLAN WHO IS HANDLING THESE MATTERS.

8. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE ASAP THE FOLLOWING CONSULAR FIGURES: (A) TOTAL EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT VISAS FOR US PROCESSED IN 1976; (B) TOTAL WHO WERE JEWS; (C) TOTAL PRIVATE VISITORS PROCESSED IN 1976.

9. MRS BRAWER REPORTED SHE RECEIVED HER FIRST LETTER FROM HER HUSBAND, DATED DEC. 6.

10. WE HAVE SENT YOU A CABLE ON THE QUESTION OF TRAVEL NOTE SUBMISSION IN KIEV. WE TOLD THE SOVIETS WE WOULD INCONVENIENCE THEM IN NEW YORK UNLESS OUR PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. WHILE WE AUTHORIZED YOU TO FOLLOW UP WITH MFA ON THIS POINT, WE ARE ALSO TRYING
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TO GET CLEARANCE ON A CABLE DEALING WITH THE LARGER QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS FLORENTSIYA LEASE, WHICH WOULD PUT SOME TEETH IN OUR APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS. WE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER TO GO INTO THE MFA ON THE TRAVEL QUESTION NOW, OR TO WAIT FOR A FEW DAYS WITH THE PROSPECT OF COVERING A LARGER RANGE OF QUESTIONS.

11. OUR PROPOSAL TO SEND THE VANCE CABLE TO STOLAR BY COMMERCIAL CHANNELS WAS VETOED.

12. GENEVA 0061, AS WELL AS YOUR 19807 OF DECEMBER 20, CONTRAST WITH EARLIER UPBEAT SOVIET LINE ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND SUGGEST THAT SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED TO ABANDON LINE THAT RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INSIGHTS YOU HAVE ON WHEN SOVIETS MADE THIS DECISION AND FACTORS LEADING TO IT.
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